

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5828
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1273

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CY
SUBJECT: CYPRUS NEGOTIATION: NICOSIA TALKS

REF: STATE 106098

1. TIMING OF REFTEL WAS FORTUITOUS. I HAD EARLIER SCHEDULED FOR MAY 11 FURTHER, SEPARATE TALKS ON NICOSIA RESUMPTION WITH TURKISH AMBASSADOR ONHON AND DENKTASH. REFTEL GAVE ADDED WEIGHT TO APPROACHES TO ENABLING ME TO SAY THAT I WAS SPEAKING ON INSTRUCTIONS.

2. CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR ONHON COVERED SEVERAL SUBJECTS, INCLUDING POSITION OF GREEK CYPRIOTS REMAINING IN THE KARPAS, AND ELECTION PROSPECTS IN TURKEY. ON THE QUESTION OF TEMPO OF MEETINGS BEFORE UNFCYP DEBATE, MAP AND CONSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS, ONHON HAD THE FOLLOWING TO SAY:

A. DENKTASH, TURKISH CYPRIOT NEGOTIATOR ONAN, AND EVEN DE CUELLAR FEEL STRONGLY THAT THERE IS ONLY ENOUGH SUBSTANTIVE "AMMUNITION" TO CARRY FOR TWO MEETINGS, ONE ON CONSTITUTION AND ONE ON TERRITORY. IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS TO TRY TO
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STRETCH SUBSTANCE TO THE POINT OF CERTAIN IMPASSE AND CONSEQUENTLY FAILURE. NEVERTHELESS, US VIEW WILL BE STUDIED. DENKTASH'S INTENDED ABSENCE IN LIBYA AND LONDON (HE LEAVES NICOSIA MAY 14) MEANS THAT ONAN WILL HAVE LITTLE LATITUDE.

B. THE TURKISH SIDE HAS US SUGGESTIONS FOR AMPLIFICATION ON CONSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS UNDER ADVISEMENT. "THERE WILL BE SOMETHING MORE."

C. DENKTASH OBJECTS TO US MAP SUGGESTION. IT WWOULD EXCLUDE FROM DISCUSSION THE PRESENT AREA BETWEEN THE LINES (ABL). DEPENDING ON METHOD OF COMPUTATION USED, THIS CONSTITUTES SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 2.35 AND 2.41 PERCENT OF CYPRUS TERRITORY AND MUST BE IN THE POST WHEN TERRITORY IS DISCUSSED, AS BOTH SIDES CAN ASSERT AN EQUAL CLAIM TO IT. THIS ARGUMENT CARRIES WEIGHT IN ANKARA.

D. DENKTASH IS NOT IN A MOOD TO COOPERATE. HE HAS REACTED QUITE NEGATIVELY TO CLIFFORD'S (APR 29) LETTER, CHARGING IT CONFIRMS HIS PREDICTION THAT US IS PRESSURING TURKEY AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS TO MAKE CONCESSIONS FOR A SOLUTION THAT WILL BE AT THE EXPENSE OF LATTERS' INTERESTS. FURTHER, DENKTASH IS TAKING THE POSITION THAT THE NEW TURKISH GOVERNMENT WHICH COMES INTO POWER AFTER JUNE 5 ELECTIONS SHOULD BE HANDED A SLATE ON THE CYPRUS NEGOTIATION THAT IS ABSOLUTELY CLEAN EXCEPT FOR THE GREEK MAP AND

THE TURKISH CYPRIOT CONSTITUTIONAL PROIAH AS TABLED IN VIENNA. IN OTHER WORDS, HE IS INSISTING ON ZERO INCREMENT OF SUBSTANCE UNTIL AFTER JUNE 5.

3. I MENTIONED THAT DEPT'S INSTRUCTION HAD GONE ALSO TO EMBASSY ANKARA WHICH WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE APPROACHING GOT FONOFF. I HOPED GOT AND ONHON WOULD DO THEIR BEST TO BE HELPFUL WITH DENKTASH BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE. ON TERRITORY, USING THE TWO-LINE MAP WE HAD SUGGESTED AS A DEVICE TO STIMULATE DISCUSSION WOULD NOT PRECLUDE ONAN STATING TURKISH VIEWS ON ABL AND THUS RESERVING THE TURKISH POSITION.

4. I SAW DENKTASH FOR LUNCHEON IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CONFIDENTIAL

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APPOINTMENT WITH ONHON. I WENT OVER THE SAME GROUND, AGAIN NOTING THAT I WAS DOING SO ON INSTRUCTIONS. THIS TRIGGERED SOME FAMILIAR, HEATED RHETORIC ABOUT "THE GREEK LOBBY", THE DESTRUCTIVENESS OF US PRESSURE ON TURKEY, UDI, AND DENKTASH'S INTENTION TO PUT HIS FEELINGS IN A LETTER TO CLIFFORD BEFORE HE LEAVES THE ISLAND. IN THE END, HOWEVER, DENKTASH SAID WE COULD BE SURE OUR APPROACH WOULD BE GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.

5. AT THE SAME LUNCHEON I SAW ONAN BRIEFLY AND GAVE HIM THE FLAVOR OF MY APPROACH TO DENKTASH, SUGGESTING THIS BE FULLY REVIEWED BEFORE DENKTASH LEFT.

6. COMMENT: WE ALSO CONTINUE TO GET NEGATIVE NOISES FROM THE GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE REGARDING NICOSIA TALKS AND US SUGGESTIONS. IN OUR LAST SOCIAL CONVERSATION, FONMIN CHRISTOPHIDES TERMED THE LATTER "RETROGRADE" (BY NO COINCIDENCE THE APPELLATION ALSO USED BY PAPADOPOULOS). BOTH CHRISTOPHIDES AND DIRGEN PELAGHIAS (THE LATTER WITH DCM MORNING MAY 11) TAKE THE LINE THAT

THERE CAN BE NOTHING USEFUL TO TALK ABOUT UNTIL AFTER TURKISH ELECTIONS, SO WHY PRETEND. ALTHOUGH NEITHER HAS SAID SO, WE THINK THE GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE HAS DECIDED THAT THE US ADMINISTRATION WANTS AN APPEARANCE OF CONTINUED MOMENTUM TO HELP IT WITH CONGRESS ON TURKISH SECURITY ASSISTANCE, AND THAT INDEPENDENTLY, OR WITH ADVICE FROM THE UBIQUITOUS "FRIENDS" WHOM IT ALWAYS CITES, IT IS DETERMINED NOT TO CONTRIBUTE. WHATEVER THE REASON, IT IS APPARENT TO US THAT GOC IS AS LITTLE INTERESTED IN BETTER TEMPO AND MORE SUBSTANCE AS THE TURKISH SIDE.

7. WE HAVE A MEETING WITH DE CUELLAR/GORGE MAY 12 AND WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS THE US VIEW IN THAT QUARTER, ASKING AGAIN THAT THEY WEAVE US IDEAS INTO THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH PARTIES ON AGENDA FOR MAY 20 AND SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS.
CRAWFORD

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